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IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims are set forth below and have been amended and/or cancelled, without prejudice, where noted:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for ~~devolatilizing a polymer~~ comprising:  
passing ~~the~~ a polymer through a devolatilizer comprising a plate heat exchanger, wherein the plates of the plate heat exchanger are heated by a plurality of heating tubes and wherein each of the heating tubes comprises a return tube nested inside of a supply tube;  
introducing a heat transfer fluid into the supply tube;  
passing the heat transfer fluid from the supply tube to the return tube; and  
withdrawing the heat transfer fluid from the return tube.
2. (Cancelled) The process of Claim 1 wherein the supply tube contains a heat transfer fluid.
3. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 2 1, wherein there is a pressure differential between the supply tube and the return tube such that the heat transfer fluid flows from the supply tube and into the return tube.
4. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the polymer ~~includes~~ comprises from about 40 to about 5 percent volatiles prior to being devolatilized.
5. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the polymer ~~includes~~ comprises from about 10,000 to 100 ppm volatiles after being devolatilized.
6. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers, silicone polymers, elastomers, lubricants, and mixtures thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 6 wherein the polymer is a thermoplastic polymer ~~selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, impact-resistant~~

~~polybutyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polycarbonates, polyvinyl chlorides, polyurethanes, polyetherimides, polyamides, polyesters, polyacrylates and polymethacrylates, linear polyethylene, and their copolymers such as the styrene-acrylonitrile (ASA or SAN), styrene methyl-methacrylate, styrene maleic-anhydride, styrene-acrylonitrile rubber such as ABS or AES, and styrene-methyl-methacrylate-rubber and the like, as well as and mixtures thereof of such polymers and copolymers, such as for instances polyphenylene-ether polystyrene and mixtures thereof.~~

8. (Original) The process of Claim 7 wherein the polymer is impact-resistant polystyrene.

9. (Original) The process of Claim 6 wherein the polymer is an elastomer selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, polyisoprene, butylene rubbers, polyisobutylene, ethylene-propylene rubbers, and ethylene-propylene-diene (EPDM) rubbers; homopolymers of vinyl ethers, cyclic esters, methacrylic esters, acrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein further comprising forming the the plate heat exchanger is ~~prepared using~~ from a metal selected from the group consisting of carbon steel, stainless steel, aluminum, and combinations thereof.

11. (Cancelled) The process of Claim 1 wherein the plate heat exchanger additionally comprises a common supply header and common return header.

12. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein each plate of the plate heat exchanger is in contact with no more than one heating tube.

13. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein at least some of the plates of the plate heat exchanger are in contact with at least two heating tubes.

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14. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the heat transfer fluid is selected from the group consisting of ~~include~~ air, nitrogen, water, oil, glycols, and mixtures thereof.
15. (Original) The process of Claim 14 wherein the heat transfer fluid is water in the form of steam.
16. (Original) The process of Claim 14 wherein the heat transfer fluid is oil.
17. (Withdrawn) A plate heat exchanger comprising at least one heating plate and a plurality of heating tubes wherein the heating tubes are positioned such that they can heat the heating plates using a heat transfer fluid flowing through the heating tubes and wherein the heating tube comprises a return tube nested inside of a supply tube.
18. (Withdrawn) The plate heat exchanger of Claim 17 having four heating tubes.
19. (Withdrawn) A plate heat exchanger comprising at least one heating plate and a plurality of heating tubes wherein the heating tubes are positioned such that they can heat the heating plates using a heat transfer fluid flowing through the heating tubes and wherein the heating tube comprises a supply tube nested inside of a return tube.
20. (Withdrawn) A process for cooling a material comprising passing a material to be cooled through the heat exchanger of Claim 19.
21. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the heat transfer fluid passing through the supply tube has a temperature that is greater than a temperature of the heat transfer fluid passing through the return tube.

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